THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra had requested for permission for entry of vehicles of the Chief Minister and officials of the State Government in the operational area of the airport for protocol purposes.

(c) The request of Maharashtra Government for issuing permanent permits was not accepted.

(d) Permission for vehicles in respect of VVIPs and other dignitaries in the operational areas of the airports is granted after due considerations of security as well as protocol.

Booking of Goods

2928. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the value of goods booked with the Railway Godowns during 1995-96, zone-wise;

(b) the goods stolen out of that and the value thereof;

(c) the value of goods recovered out of the goods stolen and the loss suffered by Railways on account of the theft; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by the Government to check such thefts from the Railway Godowns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The value of goods booked by Railways is not quantifiable as it is not obligatory for the consignor to declare its value;

(b) and (c) The value of goods stolen/recovered out of the goods booked with the Railways during the year 1995-96, zone-wise is as under :

Railways	No. of Cases	Value of property in Rs.	
		Stolen	Recovered
C. Rly.	394	3493812	1027534
E. Rly.	2383	10821990	878559
N. Rly.	887	4977524	2126688
N.E. Rly.	558	2269136	365111
NF. Rly.	1117	5670115	143301
S. Rly.	611	2773436	396653
S.C. Rly.	205	560215	44228
S.E. Rly.	846	4290041	45526
W. Rly	660	3049025	424555
Total	7661	37905294	5452155

(d) The following preventive measures are taken to check such thefts :

1. Escorting of trains carrying booked items and other valuable consignments over vulnerable sections as far as possible.
2. Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other affected areas/sections.
3. Joint checking at interchange points to take stock of the conditions of wagons/seals, carrying consignments.
4. RPF armed pickets are posted/deployed in vulnerable sections as far as possible.
5. Plain clothed RPF personnel are also deployed to collect crime intelligence with a view to tracking down the criminals.
6. Based on criminal intelligence, raids and searches are conducted on the dens of criminals/receivers of stolen property in order to bring them to book.
7. Dogs squads are deployed for patrolling vulnerable yards and areas.
8. Close co-ordination between RPF, GRP and local police is maintained at various levels to apprehend criminals and receivers of stolen property.

Postal Employees

2929. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the strength of Postal employees together with their increased strength during each of the last four years, group-wise;

(b) the establishment cost of postal services during the above period as against the postal services;

(c) whether the Government have quantified and assessed the increase and strain in postal services;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) whether the present strength of staff is adequate to meet the demand of postal services in the country; and

(f) if not, the steps taken to meet this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The sanctioned strength of postal employees working in Postal side in various cadres from 1991 and for the last four years, group-wise, is as under:

Year	Gr. 'A'	Gr. 'B'	Gr. 'C'	Gr. 'D'
1991-92	705	1047	234387	52469
1992-93	705	1063	232748	51834
1993-94	701	1065	232082	52144
1994-95	701	1086	232376	52328